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invaluable for the study of the growth of the imperial idea, whose problems Great Britain is as yet far from having settled on a scientific base.

This work is of great value as a corrective to that history of India which is written in terms of war and victories. It shows how empire was forced upon a trading nation without thought of glory, how little prepared they were for its responsibilities, how little even at the present day, and in far greater case ourselves, fall short of a reasonable scheme of administration.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Irrigation of Mesopotamia. By Sir W. Willcocks. 136 pp. 46 plans and maps in portfolio. E. & F. N. Spon, Ltd., London, 1911. 10½ x 7.

It is likely that the engineers on Sir William Willcocks's staff little realized at the outset of their operations how hampered they were to be in their field work. That they were able to cope successfully with the obstacles met is amply proven by this book, which is primarily an exemplary technical report. Viewed from the irrigation engineer's standpoint, its thoroughness reflects credit on its compilers. Some of the data it contains, such as costs of materials, wages, and transportation rates, will doubtless be of value to others than those who are interested in the vast irrigation scheme considered. The gain accruing to science from the industrial information afforded by its text is by no means slight. Sections of it taken together, form a veritable preliminary contribution to our knowledge of Mesopotamian hydrography.

The report has a cartographic importance of particular interest. The Mesopotamia with which it deals is "the true delta of the rivers Euphrates and Tigris, and comprises the country traversed by the two rivers and their branches southwards of Hitt, on the Euphrates, and Samarra, on the Tigris." No complete map of this region exists so far, no levelling having been undertaken before the advent of Sir William Willcocks's assistants. The work of the party's surveyors, as reflected in their maps therefore provides new material which can be made available for the compilation of a regional map. It is to be regretted that owing to the limited time at the disposal of the engineering parties, no triangulation points could be established. The joint achievement of the four survey parties has resulted in the preparation of sections of the first 1:50,000 map of the delta on which elevations are referred to mean sea level, the determination of which was obtained at Khor Abdallah, south of Basra, on two consecutive days. The traverses (plane table, tacheometer and magnetic needle) run down the Tigris and Euphrates and the center of the country, added to the cross-traverses between the two rivers, will permit plotting of geographic units with a greater degree of accuracy than has been hitherto attained.

A mere perusal of the book suffices to reveal the fact that considerations of a geographic nature, as such, were not foremost in the mind of its several contributors. Nevertheless, it often happens that the geographer is enabled to add to his store of information by having recourse to the results obtained by trained men of the type present in Sir William Willcocks's parties. An excellent instance in point is that of appendices C and F dealing with the agricultural possibilities of Mesopotamia. Both contain material of value. The contents of appendices D and E will likewise appeal to the student of climatology despite their brevity. A note of human interest is awakened by this report on the present effort to reclaim this region's former economic importance.

LEON DOMINIAN.

EUROPE

Edinburgh Revisited. By James Bone. Drawings by Hanslip Fletcher. viii and 263 pp. Ills. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1911. \$5. 11½ x 9.

A particular surprise awaits the reader of this volume. Certainly it does bear the outward guise of an ornamental book, a parlor table luxury; yet it is necessary to read but a few pages at random to discover that the author had a worthy purpose and that he has carried it out with careful attention, that the work of the draughtsman is narrowly held to the same theme, and it must be confessed that the subjugation of the illustrator is the greatest victory of the